

13 March 1963

Dr. Brockway McMillan
Director, NRO
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Brock:

Ever since the Cuban crisis the Intelligence Community and senior officials have expressed great concern over our inability to obtain intelligence on Soviet nighttime activities in Cuba. This has been discussed on several occasions with Dr. Charyk who indicated he would investigate what assets might be made available.

25X1 During the week of 4 March, Mr. McCone was shown some of the [redacted] and he directed that the NRO make every effort to develop a capability with this equipment and a plan for utilizing it over Cuba at the earliest possible date. He also requested an investigation be made as to whether the Confidential security classification for this type of photography was adequate and if not, steps should be taken to raise the classification. Col. Steakley also reported on this system at the Special Group meeting on 11 March, and the Special Group asked that a co-ordinated report be prepared for the Group, outlining the status of development, prospects for effective use of this technique and the security situation with respect to information on developments in this field.

25X1 Following the discussions with Mr. McCone, Col. Giller raised the problem with Col. Worthman who undertook to initiate action on the part of the NRO. I should at this time just like to confirm these discussions since I believe this is one of the highest priority jobs which the NRO has to undertake at the present time. Without this capability the U. S. is only seeing in Cuba what the Russians or Cubans wish us to see since any secret actions can be carried out at night. Therefore, until we have this capability,

[redacted] 0082-63
Page 2

large uncertainties will always remain in many people's minds as to the exact situation there. I believe it imperative that we procure at least one of the sets of the [redacted] equipment which I believe are already available in the AF and see that it is installed in an aircraft which could be flown over certain Cuban [redacted] Mr. McCone will, I am sure, be requesting a report back on NRO action in this area very shortly.

Sincerely yours,

[redacted]

Herbert Scoville, Jr.
Deputy Director
(Research)

ODDR:HScoville [redacted]

Distribution:

Orig. - Addressee - # 1
1 - AD/OSA - # 2
1 - AAD/ORD - # 3
2 - DDR - # 4 & # 5